



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

October 23, 1998

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office

Fisheries Division

Parks Division

FWP Commissioners

Legal Unit

Design & Construction

Lands Section

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Beaverhead County Commissioners, County Courthouse, Dillon, MT 59725

Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Skyline Sportsman's Association, POB 173, Butte, MT 59701

Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711

Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Association, POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759

Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association, 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601

Beaverhead Outdoors Association, POB 1401, Dillon, MT 59725

Representative Bob Raney, 212 South 6th, Livingston, MT 59047

Sen. Charles Swysgood, 506 South Atlantic St., Dillon, MT 59725

John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624

Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752

Jack Atcheson, State Land Coalition, 3210 Ottawa St., Butte, MT 59701

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached to this cover letter is the decision notice for the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for a proposed property trade adjacent to the **Poindexter Slough Fishing Access Site** (FAS) on the Beaverhead River, one mile south of Dillon, Montana. The action is to trade 13.65 acres of Fish, Wildlife & Parks property at Poindexter Slough FAS west of old Highway 91 and east of Interstate 15, for 6.04 acres of Tash T Diamond Livestock, Inc. property adjacent to the east bank of the Beaverhead River and west of Interstate 15. The appraised value of the two properties is approximately equal. The decision has been made to recommend to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission that they approve the land trade as proposed. All Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) property transactions require FWP Commission approval.

Beaverhead

Copies of the final EA for the property trade can be obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1400 S. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718. If you have any questions regarding this decision notice, please contact me at 994-4042.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

Attachment

DECISION NOTICE

POINDEXTER SLOUGH FAS/TASH T DIAMOND LIVESTOCK, INC. PROPERTY EXCHANGE

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

October 23, 1998

PROPOSAL

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) propose to trade 13.65 acres of FWP property at Poindexter Slough Fishing Access Site (FAS), west of old Highway 91 and east of Interstate 15 for 6.04 acres of Tash T Diamond Livestock, Inc. (Tash) property adjacent to the east bank of the Beaverhead River and west of Interstate 15. Current FWP ownership at Poindexter Slough FAS totals 405 acres. The appraised value of the two properties are approximately equal with FWP property appraised at \$19,500 and the Tash property at \$20,000. The FWP property was originally purchased in 1979 with the assistance of Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF). The LWCF obligation will be transferred to the Tash tract after the proposed acquisition is completed with the approval of the National Park Service. Both parcels are primarily wetland habitat type. Both parcels will be encumbered with restrictive covenants limiting the use of the properties to agriculture. The FWP property will be traded subject to a 30 foot wide access easement along the eastern border of the tract to serve a neighboring property owner to the east. The survey is configured at Highway 91 to facilitate continued administrative access to other FWP properties east of Interstate 15.

The proposed trade will benefit FWP and recreationists by securing property that is contiguous with the majority of FWP holdings west of Interstate 15 and adjacent to the Beaverhead River. The parcel proposed for disposition is non-contiguous with other FWP holdings on Poindexter Slough FAS and contains no river frontage on the Beaverhead River or Poindexter Slough. The property proposed for acquisition will allow increased public recreational opportunity through expanded frontage (870 linear feet) along the Beaverhead River. Expansion of the contiguous holdings west of Interstate 15 will also provide increased public waterfowl and whitetail deer hunting opportunity. Little public use has been observed in the parcel proposed for trade. Use for waterfowl hunting is limited by the small size of the parcel and its proximity to Highway 91 and Interstate 15 as well as neighboring ownerships. The parcel proposed for trade contains no fisheries resources. Both parcels contain significant wetland habitats and offer equal opportunities for wildlife viewing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received on the proposed property trade.

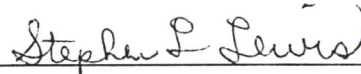
DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the process has satisfactorily complied with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The proposed action poses no significant impacts to the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to recommend to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission that they approve the property trade as delineated in the Environmental Assessment as the proposed action (Alternative 1), which is to trade 13.65 acres of FWP property at Poindexter Slough FAS to Tash T Diamond Livestock, Inc. in exchange for 6.04 acres of Tash property adjacent to Poindexter Slough FAS. The FWP Commission is scheduled to take action on this land trade proposal at their November 6, 1998 meeting at FWP Headquarters, 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, Montana. By notice of this decision document, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA without modification or additions.

If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact me at 994-4042.

The final EA and decision notice may be viewed at or obtained upon request from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, at the Region Three Headquarters, 1400 S. 19th, Bozeman (994-4042), the Helena Area Resource Office, 930 Custer Avenue West, Helena (449-8864), the Butte Area Resource Office, 1820 Meadowlark Lane, Butte (494-1952) or the State Electronic Bulletin Board.



Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor